

Obispo chapter of the American Red Cross, and is tirelessly working to aid victims of natural disasters. Last year, San Luis Obispo County faced a devastating fire that consumed nearly 4,000 acres and forced residents to evacuate their homes. During the Chimney Fire, Suzanne was instrumental to securing people shelter and ensuring and assisting in their recovery from the disaster.

She continues to help natural disaster victims by serving as the local Red Cross Disaster Action Team dispatcher. In this capacity, she aids community members affected by house fires, earthquakes, and flooding. Her dedication to San Luis Obispo County's disaster victims is volunteered, and Suzanne gives most of her free time to working on behalf of others and protecting her fellow community members' safety.

As a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer, Suzanne continues to be a passionate supporter of our troops and local veterans. She is always willing to extend a helping hand to those who need it. She set up a scholarship specifically for women veterans at Cuesta College, which is the sole funding available for them.

Suzanne has been a champion for natural disaster victims and selflessly works for those who need it most. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Suzanne Curtis, for her incredible service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HENRI LANDWIRTH, FOUNDER OF DIGNITY U WEAR

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an extraordinary leader, Mr. Henri Landwirth, for the incredible impact he has had on countless individuals not only in Jacksonville but also across the country.

Born March 7, 1927, in Belgium, Henri Landwirth, along with his family, was arrested for being Jewish. He spent five years in a concentration camp and survived the Holocaust. At 18, Henri immigrated to the United States with only a Torah and a little money. Soon after his arrival, he joined the United States Army and served during the Korean War.

Following his military service, Landwirth used his G.I. benefits to take a course in hotel management and began work in a New York City hotel. He used every opportunity to work hard and advance through every job in the business and eventually moved to Florida to own his own hotel.

He enjoyed a successful career in the hotel industry and became a philanthropist starting the Fanny Landwirth Foundation in 1985 in memory of his mother. The mission of the Fanny Landwirth Foundation is "to enrich, educate and empower underserved children and families" by supporting basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education.

A trip to Jacksonville's Sulzbacher Center for the homeless and his memory of having no clothes when he was incarcerated at Ausch-

witz led him to found Dignity U Wear, which to date has provided over 9 million pieces of clothing valued at over \$160 million to those in need.

Henri once said, "From the darkness of concentration camps grew many compassionate courageous and generous souls." Henri Landwirth's vision to become a courageous and generous soul has been proven true in the thousands of people he's helped over the years. His unwavering commitment and dedication to his community is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Henri Landwirth for his strong leadership and unyielding commitment to philanthropy and our community.

VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters from the National Disabilities Rights Network and the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2017.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: I am pleased to write on behalf of the National Rifle Association in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act."

This bill would address an ongoing problem over the past 12 years in which veterans and veterans' family members for whom fiduciaries have been appointed by the Department of Veterans Affairs are deemed to have been "adjudicated as . . . mental defective[s]" and prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms. Such an appointment is not necessarily based on any finding that the veteran is a danger to himself or herself or to others.

Fortunately, the NICS Improvement Amendment Act of 2007 provided these individuals with the opportunity to seek relief from that legal disability. However, your bill goes one step further in protecting the rights of veterans and family members, by ensuring that no VA proceeding going forward will prevent a person from exercising his or her Second Amendment rights unless a judicial authority has found that the person's mental incapacity or disorder actually makes him or her dangerous.

We wish you success in moving forward with this important protection for the rights of those who have served our country. Please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

JASON M. QUIMET,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL DISABILITY
RIGHTS NETWORK,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2017.

Re National Disability Rights Network letter of support for H.R. 1181, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act

HON. PHIL ROE,
Chairman, House Veterans' Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) writes in support of H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act". We appreciate your strong advocacy on this important topic.

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navaho and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

H.R. 1181 prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs, from considering a veteran to be adjudicated as "mentally defective" for purposes of the right to receive or transport firearms without the order or finding of a judicial authority that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others. We oppose the reporting of names without full adjudication for a number of reasons, including:

The damaging message of a policy that focuses on reporting individuals who, for example, receive assistance in managing their benefits to the NICS gun database. The current public dialogue is replete with inaccurate stereotyping of people with mental disabilities as violent and dangerous, and there is a real concern that the VA policy will reinforce those unfounded assumptions.

The absence of any data suggesting that there is any connection between a beneficiary who is assisted by a fiduciary and a propensity toward gun violence.

The absence of any meaningful due process protections by not requiring an adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction. Although the NICS Improvements Act of 2007 allows agencies to transmit the names of individuals who have been "adjudicated" to lack the capacity to manage their own affairs, VA's process does not, without a decision of a judicial authority, constitute an adjudication. Veterans should not lose the Constitutional rights they have fought to protect and defend without proper due process.

We urge Congress to act, through passing H.R. 1181, to prevent the damage the current VA practice to report names of veterans with disabilities to the NICS background check system without proper adjudication is causing on veterans with disabilities.

Please contact Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst with any questions.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER,
Executive Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I voted, I would have voted "no" on passage of H.R. 1259, the VA Accountability First Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 168). This bill contains provisions that infringe on the collective bargaining and due process rights of Veterans Affairs' employees. Should this legislation become public law, it would have a damaging effect on patient care and VA recruitment, limiting the agency's efficiency.

IN SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF
WORLD WATER DAY**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, every year on March 22nd we recognize World Water Day. It highlights drinking water is a basic right denied to many.

According to the United Nations fact sheet for World Water Day of 2017, a source of drinking water contaminated with feces, which puts them at risk of contracting cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio. Unsafe water, poor sanitation and 842,000 deaths each year." This is a reality for people around the world including here in the United States.

Flint, Michigan has been without clean drinking water for almost two years. There were high levels of lead in the water supply which is contributing to a growing number of chronic illnesses in the region. It was not until this month that the EPA awarded funds to repair the pipe system in the city of Flint to hopefully decrease the amounts of lead. Unfortunately, Flint is not the only city struggling in this capacity. Last year, Reuters published an article that announced thousands of other cities had dangerous levels of lead in their water systems. This is an unacceptable reality that cannot remain ignored. The health of Americans, especially children and the elderly will remain at risk daily if this problem remains unchecked.

Under Trump's new executive order, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule," rolls back the landmark environmental rule that allows the government to limit the amount of pollution that enters into our streams, rivers, and wetlands. Originally the rule protected 60 percent of water sources in the U.S.; however, under this administration, whose primary concern seems to be protecting big business and corporations, these water sources are at risk.

As Members of Congress, we must take steps to protect our water supply as a matter of public health. We need to address the situations in cities where lives are in danger due to contaminated water, both in the U.S. and around the world.

REGARDING THE LIFE OF JESSE
O. ADCOCK**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Jesse O. Adcock who passed away this past Thursday, March 16, 2017. Mr. Adcock was born on March 8, 1924 in Neshoba County, MS, in the Arlington Community.

During World War II Mr. Adcock joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, and was assigned to the Eighth Air Force. While there he flew 35 missions in the B-17 and was awarded the Purple Heart and other distinguished decorations for his heroic service. He also served in the Berlin Airlift prior to retiring from the Air Force in 1967.

Mr. Adcock returned home to Mississippi and entered the real estate business in Biloxi. He became involved in several business and civic associations including the Mississippi Realtors Association, Biloxi Businessman's Club and the Gulf Coast Apartment Association. He built and owned several apartment complexes, and the successful business he started over 50 years ago continues to operate today.

Mr. Adcock was very involved with politics and government at all levels and was appointed to serve on the Mississippi Medicaid Commission by Governor William Waller. He later served as the commission's chairman.

Mr. Adcock was not only interested in serving his state, but his faith community as well. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Biloxi and served in various leadership positions until moving to Hattiesburg in 1994, where he became an active member of Venture Church.

Mr. Adcock's service to his nation, state and community will always be remembered and I am proud to recognize his life of service before the United States Congress.

RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is no secret that hate and racism are very much still alive today. Society is often racist and prejudiced against minority individuals, because of the color of their skin or where they come from. Men and women are denied jobs, migrant status, or even killed because of racial discrimination. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Hate Group Map indicates that the number of hate groups has grown for two years in a row. The SPLC map also demonstrates that currently there are more than 900 organizations in existence whose primary purpose is to drive a narrative of hate, discrimination, and intimidation. Additionally, a Pew research study showed racial tensions are perceived to have worsened by 38 percent of people since President Obama's first term. The same study indicated that African-Americans are about twice as likely as whites to feel that it is in fact discrimination that is preventing the success of Black Americans. The FBI's 2016 hate crime report reveals that hate crimes against Muslims grew by 67 percent in just one year.

This administration's rhetoric has encouraged behavior that is aggressive and intolerant. This is not reflective of America and our values. We must be diligent in our efforts to minimize and eliminate racial discrimination from all facets of society and our political narrative.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 27

12 noon

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Rod J. Rosenstein, of Maryland, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine fostering economic growth, focusing on the role of financial companies.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the United States' increasing dependence on foreign sources of minerals and opportunities to rebuild and improve the supply chain in the United States.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting young athletes from sexual abuse.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the view from Congress, focusing on United States policy on Iran.

SD-419

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Energy

To hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity threats to the United States electric grid and technology advancements to minimize such threats, including S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector.

SD-366